



THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 6th November 1957.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. SPEAKER *RE*.

(1) SCOPE OF SUPPLEMENTARIES.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are aware that yesterday there was some discussion on the scope of interpellations and the hon. Member, Sri Vinayakam, differed from my ruling in respect of that matter and quoted Sir Winston Churchill . . .

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, I accepted your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now read from May's Parliamentary Practice which is supposed to be the Bible or the Gita or whatever you may call it, for all Speakers and which is also supposed to be the last word on 'Interpellations'. This is what it says—

'The purpose of a question is to obtain information or press for action, and it should not be in effect a short speech or limited to giving information, or framed so as to suggest its own answer or convey a particular point of view.'

'Besides these general rules, the following types of question are out of order:—

(1) Seeking an expression of opinion or containing arguments, expressions of opinion, inferences, or imputations;

(2) Containing epithets or rhetorical, controversial, ironical or offensive expressions'

Our own rules regarding questions say—

Questions are admissible if they satisfy the following conditions:—

(1) it must be permissible under the Constitution and the rules;

(2) it must not publish any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;

(3) if a question contains a statement, the member asking it must make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement;

(4) it must not contain extracts from newspapers;

(5) it must not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions or defamatory statements;

(6) it must not ask for an expression of opinion or the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition;

(7) it must not refer to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;

[Mr. Speaker] [6th November 1957]

(8) it must not relate to a private or purely parochial grievance;

(9) it must not be of excessive length;

(10) it must not anticipate a question of which notice has already been given . . .

I am only mentioning this rule so that hon. Members may not make the question-hour an opportunity for making a statement or expressing an opinion. There must be questions alone during question-hour. Even in the British Parliament only six supplementary questions are allowed for the main question. Here hon. Members rather want me to allow 25 supplementary questions on each main question. The other day in regard to the question put to the Hon. Minister for Works, even after allowing 20 minutes for that particular question, 20 Members were rising in their seats. Therefore, my only request is that members will not make a statement during question-hour. Also, they should follow certain rules and should not question the Speaker if he makes a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions and answers.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I want to submit very humbly to the Chair that I never meant any offence to the ruling of the Chair. But I believe that it has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Speaker that the book written by one of the experienced clerks of the Parliament, Mr. Henry Howard . . .

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a personal explanation.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: It is added to it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, let the hon. Member resume his seat. One of the things that hon. Members should know is that when the Speaker rises to speak, hon. Members should resume their seat. Therefore, when I give my ruling, I do it in good faith and hon. Members should accept it and should not question it. Now I would request the hon. Member Sri Vinayakam not to drag in the name of any Clerk of the Parliament or for that matter any individual however great he may be in the world in this matter.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: I never meant any disrespect to the Chair. I have not finished my personal explanation. It is written that Sir Winston Churchill put a question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Member please sit down.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Air Service between Madras and Madurai

* 91 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to start Air Service between Madras and Madurai; and